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James E. Rier, Jr.
ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: # V.C.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: James E. Rier, Jr., Acting Commissioner*

DATE: January 15, 2014

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Team Report of Findings Concerning the Maine College of Art (MECA) Review for the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Degree - Art Education K-12

BACKGROUND:

The Maine College of Art (MECA) is fully accredited and authorized by the State of Maine to confer the Associate of Arts, the Bachelor of Fine Arts, and the Master of Fine Arts degrees. Located in the heart of the Portland Arts District the College is based in the former Porteous, Mitchell and Braun department store on Congress Street which, having undergone extensive renovations throughout, currently serves as the main campus setting for MECA's various program offerings. Also located within this building is The Institute of Contemporary Art which serves a critical regional role in its commitment to presenting contemporary and provocative work by living artists from Maine and around the globe. MECA's Joanne Waxman Library is one of the largest independent art libraries in Northern New England and is a major resource for the region.

In 2008 MECA requested a focused campus visit to review their new post-baccalaureate program in Art Education K-12. This program provided a one-year (10 month) intensive curriculum of study which included the necessary coursework and student teaching experiences required for certification as an art educator in Maine. The program was designed and developed during the academic year 2004-2005 as an interim step with the aim being to eventually offer the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Art Education K-12. The site review conducted in June of 2008 confirmed that MECA's post-baccalaureate teacher certification program was well grounded and could, with some course adjustments, become the basis for an MAT program being offered in the future. The MECA teacher certification program was granted full five-year approval by the Maine State Board of Education during its September, 2008 meeting.

Rather than simply adding/adjusting coursework, the Art Education Department embarked on a journey to design and align a new program with the core values of MECA, the best research-based practices for teacher preparation, and the changes in teaching and learning brought about through the use of 21st Century technology tools. Since 2008 MECA has designed, developed and implemented an MAT degree program in Art Education K-12 which has replaced the post-baccalaureate teacher certification program.

From Sunday, November 10 through Wednesday, November 13, 2013 Review Team members met on the MECA campus in Portland to thoroughly assess the MAT degree program. Following this visit the Team compiled its Report of Findings which summarizes what the Team found as related to the Board's educator preparation program approval standards.

Copies of the MECA MAT Self Study Report and the Review Team's Report of Findings were distributed for receipt by State Board members during the Board's December 4, 2013 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education accept the Review Team's Report of Findings and grant State program approval to the Maine College of Art (MECA) for its Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree in Art Education K-12. The period of approval would be from fall 2013 to fall 2018.

*Prepared by Harry Osgood
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